

HORIZMD.001DV1



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Ritger, et al.

Appl. No. : 09/168,368

Filed : October 7, 1998

For : IMPROVED LUER
CONNECTOR

Examiner : Nguyen, A.T.

) Group Art Unit 3763

) I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
) marked attachments are being deposited with
) the United States Postal Service as first-class
) mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant
) Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C.
) 20231, on

July 20, 2000

(Date)

John P. Giezentanner, Reg. No. 39,993

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 21, 2000, please amend the above-referenced application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended): A method of improving the engagement force of a luer fitment which has been moistened with a fluid contaminant, comprising the steps of:

providing a first luer fitment with a non-coated textured surface;

joining the first luer fitment with a second luer fitment having a second surface, such that the textured surface contacts the second surface;

wherein the textured surface on the first luer fitment is adapted to direct a fluid contaminant away from the textured and second surfaces, such that the force required to disengage the first luer fitment from the second luer fitment when the fitments are dry is substantially the same or less than the force required to disengage the first luer fitment from the second luer fitment when a fluid contaminant is present between the textured and second surfaces.